

CLAIMS

1. A cell line capable of differentiating into chondrocytes and adipocytes, which is derived from a normal adult animal.
2. The cell line of Claim 1 wherein the normal adult animal is a normal adult mouse.
3. The cell line of Claim 1 or 2, which is derived from undifferentiated mesenchymal cells.
4. The cell line of any one of Claims 1 to 3, which bears accession No. FERM BP-5823.
5. A method for screening for a cell differentiation-controlling material, comprising using the cell line of any one of Claims 1 to 4.
6. The method of Claim 5 wherein the cell differentiation-controlling material is a material controlling differentiation into chondrocytes or adipocytes, a material controlling destruction of cartilage tissues or a material controlling calcification of chondrocytes.
7. The screening method of Claim 5 or 6 wherein the material screened for is a gene.
8. A kit for screening for a cell differentiation-controlling material, comprising the cell line of any one of Claims 1 to 4.
9. The kit of Claim 8 wherein the cell differentiation-controlling material is a material controlling differentiation into chondrocytes or adipocytes, a material controlling destruction of cartilage tissues or a material controlling calcification of chondrocytes.

10. A cell differentiation-controlling material which is obtainable by a screening method using the cell line of any one of Claims 1 to 4.

11. The cell differentiation-controlling material of Claim 10, which is a material controlling differentiation into chondrocytes or adipocytes, a material controlling destruction of cartilage tissues or a material controlling calcification of chondrocytes.

12. A drug containing the differentiation-controlling material of Claim 10 or 11.

13. The drug of Claim 12, which is selected from the group consisting of therapeutic agents for osteoarthritis, repairing agents for cartilage-containing tissues, antirheumatic agents, therapeutic agents for herniated disc and antiobesity agents.